A SPEECH

DELIVERED

AT A CONFERENCE

with the LORDS. *January*

XXV. MDCXLI.

By occasion of the PETITIONS

from the Cities of *London*, and the Coun-

ties of *Middlesex*, *Essex*, and *Hertford*.

By JOHN PYM, *Esquire*.

Published by Order of the House of Commons.

WHEREUNTO

Are annexed two ORDERS of the said HOUSE.

THE ONE

Containing the *Thanks* of the HOUSE, given to

those of HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE OTHER

For punishing of those who printed a false *Copie* of their

Petition, and other Libellous Pamphlets.

London printed for *F. C.* and *T. Banks*.

At a Conference betwixt both Houses, concerning divers Petitions presented to the House of Commons; Mr. Pym appointed to manage that *Conference*.

My Lords,

Am commanded by the Knights, Citizens, and Burgesses assembled for the Commons in Parliament, to present to your Lordships divers Petitions, which they have received from severall parts concerning the State of the Kingdome: whereunto they are chiefely moved by that constant affection which they have alwaies exprest of maintaining a firme *union* and, good *correspondence* with your Lordship, wherin they have ever found much advantage, and contentment; but never held it more important and necessary, then at this time, wherein the wisedome and Resolution of Parliament, have as many great danger s and difficulties to passe through, as ever heretofore.

Wee are unite in the publique trust, which is derived from the Common-wealth in the common Duties and Oligation wherby God doth bind us to the discharge of that trust: & the Commons desire to impart to your Lordships whatsoever Information or Intelligence, whatsoever Incouragement or assistance they have received from those severall Countries, which they represent, that so likewise wee may be united in the same intentions and Endeavours of improving all to the service of his Majestie, & the cómon good of the Kingdom.

The Petitions which I am directed to communicate to your Lordships, are fonre: from *London*, *Middlesex*, *Essex*, and *Hartfordshire*. We have received many more, but it would take up too much time, and bee too great a trouble to peruse all; and, in these foure, you may perceive the Effect and Sense of all: First I am to desire your Lordships to heare them read, and then I shall persue my Instructions in propounding some observations out of them.

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THE HONORABLE THE KNIGHTS, CITIZENS AND BVRGESSES, OF THE HOVSE OF COMMONS assembled in PARLIAMENT.

The humble Petition and Answer of the Major, Aldermen, and Common Councell of the Citie of London.

Sheweth,

THat the Committee of this Honourable House upon Saturday the 22. of this instant *January*, sent a message to the Petitioners for the loane of one hundred thousand pounds, or of so much thereof as could conveniently be forthwith raised, for levying of forces to suppresse the Rebells in *Ireland*; To which Message something was then answered, and a further answer in writing promised.

In performance whereof they humbly present the answer following, together with the reasons thereof, desiring that the same (being the best that for the present they are able to give) may favourably be accepted. *And they shall ever pray, &c.*

The Answer.

THE Petitioners are duely and deepely sensible of the great miseries of their Breatheren in *Ireland*, and of the eminent danger, not onely of the totall losse of that Kingdome, but of the ruine of this also, if that of *Ireland* should (which God forbid) be lost. And as they have hitherto shewed themselves ready, even beyond their abilities to serve the King and Parliament; so shall they ever continue to the utmost of their power, withall cheerefulnesse and duty. But at the present they are compelled to repeate their former answer; That they have not power to raise any summes by way of Tax for any forreigne use; and doe further answer that they have no meanes to doe it otherwise then by the immediate personall consent of every particular Lender, which they cannot hope to obtaine in regard of those obstructions following: Which the Petitioners humbly present, together with this their further Answer, as the Reasons thereof.

1. That immediately before the *Parliament* and sithence divers great Summes for the service of the King and Kingdome have beene already lent by

the Citizens of *London*, besides 50000. *l.* for the supply of *Ireland*, in particular; a great part whereof some of the Lenders were compelled to borrow, and cannot to this day repay.

2. That such part of those monies as are already due to the *Citizens* from the *Parliament*; and should have bin repaid out of the *Pale-moneyes* and *Subsidies*, is not yet done, because there is not any considerable summe come in from the countrey as was expected to satisfie the same.

3. That the said 50000. *l.* lent for *Ireland*, was hastened and speedily paid within neare about 2000. *l.* upon this ground then urged by the *Parliament*; that if it were forthwith lent, it might be of more use to preserve that Kingdom then the love of 200000. *l.* could be, if deferred but five Weeks; yet no considerable Forces are sent thither to this day. And wee finde that men will not bee willing to lend any thing till they bee assured that a good strength bee sent thither with full Commission to relieve *London Derry* and other parts of that Kingdome.

4. The generall withholding of very great Summes of money from the Petitioners, and many others, which moneys have beene long due, not onely from Chapmen and other debtors in *England*, but from very many in *Ireland*; (who owe many hundred Thousands of Pounds to the Citizens of *London*) doth render divers persons of good estates and credit hardly able to goe one with Trade, or to pay their debts and maintaine their Charge.

5. The Brotherly offer of *Scotland* to send 10000. men into *Ireland*, not yet so eccepted as to produce any reliefe to that bleeding Kingdome, while yet our Brethren are dayly massacred there, discourageth most men from lending any money, were they never so able.

6. The not passing the Bill for pressing of Soldiers here, whereby such forces as are requisite might be timely sent from hence into *Ireland*, puts men into feares, that there may be some designe rather to loose that Kingdome, and to consume this in the losing of *Ireland*, than to preserve either the one or the other; for that it cannot bee conceived, that the Rebells (beeing growne so powerfull) will be suppressed by volunteires.

7. The slow issuing of Commissions to those who being in *Ireland*, or going thither, are willing to enter the field against the Rebells, disables them from doing any effectuall execution upon the enemie, unlesse in their owne defence; and so all the monies that have beene or may be sent thither, are exhausted to maintaine our forces to doe little or nothing worthy of them, rather then imployed to chastise the Rebells, and to reduce them to obedience, by meanes whereof the number and power of the Rebells are greatly increased, divers castles and townes are by them taken, much Protestant blood is daily spilt, many thousand families destroyed, the malignant part of Papist and their adherents here are incouraged, and those Rebells so much inboldned, that they

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Lastly, they will extirpate the British Nation there, and then make *England*, the seat of warre.

8. The not disarming of Papists here in *England*, after many discoveries of their treacheries, and bloody designes upon the Parliament and Kingdome, the great decay of Fortifications, Blockehouses, and other Sea-forts; the not managing of them, nor furnishing them with Ordinance and Ammunition, the not placing all of them in such hands in whom the Parliament may confide, and the not setling this Kingdome in a posture of defence, in times of so many feares and jelosies of forraigne invasions and intestine conspiracies, the not removing the present Lieveteanant of the Tower, and putting such a person in that place, as may be well approved by the Parliament, notwithstanding the earnest petitions exhibited to this honorable House for that purpose, which hath produced a forbearance to bring *Bullion* into the Tower in this time of security of monies; all which cannot but overthrow trading more and more, and make monies yet more scarce in the Citie and Kingdome.

9. The Kings Ships which ought to be a wall of defence to this Kingdome, and a convay to the Merchants (for which Tonnage and Poundage was granted) are not fitted and imployed, as the present condition of this Kingdome and *Ireland* requires, but some of them for the conveying away Delinquents, who durst not abide the test of the Parliament, to the great encouragement of the rest of the malignant party here, who when their designes and themselves be detected, know how to escape the hand of Iustice through the abuse of a Royall conduct.

10. The not questioning those many thousands of unkowne persons, who are sheltered in Covengarden, and thereabouts, which do not imploy themselves in any lawfull calling, and it's very propable, lye in a readinesse to adventure upon some desperate attempt, to the endangering of the welfare, peace and safety of the Kings Majesty, Parliament and Citie.

11. The mis-understanding betweene the King and Parliament, the not vindicating the priviledges of Parliament, the not suppressing of Protections, the not punishing of Delinquents, and the not executing of all Priests and Iesuites, legally condemned, while others contrary to Priviledge of Parliament have beene illegally (as the Petitioners conceive) charged with Treason, to the deterring of worthy Members from discharging their duties, and to the destroying of the very being of Parliaments, doe exceedingly fill the minds of

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men well affected to the publike, with many feares and discouragements throughout the Kingdome, and so disable them from that cheerefull assistance which they would be glad to afford.

12. By meanes of the Premisses there is such decay of trading, and such scarcity of money (neither of which can be cured, till the former evills be removed) as it is likely in very short time, to cast innumerable multitudes of poore Artificers into such a depth of poverty and extremity, as may enforce them upon some dangerous and desperate attempts, not fit to be expressed, much lesse to be justified: which they leave to the wisedome of this House speedily to consider and prevent.

THese are the Evils under which the Petitioners doe exceedingly labour & languish, which they humbly conceive to have sprung from the employing of ill affected persons in places of trust and honour in the State, & neere to the sacred person of his Majestie; and that these evils are still continued by meanes of the Votes of Bishops and Popish Lords in the house of Peeres.

And now, that the Petitioners have faithfully represented the true Reasons which doe really enforce them to returne this answere, most of which have beene formerly offered to this Honourable House in sundry Petitions; and that they have done all that in them lies (even beyond all president) to serve the King, Parliament and Kingdome; they humble crave leave to protest before God and the high Court of Parliament, that if any further miseries befall their deare brethren in Ireland, *or if any mischeife shall breake in upon this Kingdome, to the endangering or disturbing thereof; it ought not to be imputed to the Petitioners, but only to such as shall endeavour to hinder the effectuall and speedy cure of the evills before recited, that so much disable and discourage the Petitioners from doing that which by this Honorable house is desired of them.*

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To the Honorable, the Knights, Citizens and Burgesses of the House of Commons in the High Court of *Parliament*.

The humble Petition of the Knights, Gentlemen, Ministers, and other Inhabitants of the County of *Essex*.

Sheweth

TO this Honourable House, that wee are truly sensible of your great care and extraordinary endeavours to settle our Religion and peace, and daily blesse God Almighty, and the Kings Majesty, the Peeres, and this honourable Assembly for the same. And we doe further in all humility

humility represent to your honourable consideration, that notwithstanding your abundant care and industry, we do still apprehend a great stop of Reformation in matters of Religion, and our selves together with you, and the whole Kingdome to be in great danger from the papists, and other ill affected persons who are every where very insolent, and ready to act the parts of those savage Blood-suckers in *Ireland*, if they be not speedily prevented; by meanes whereof our tradings, especially of clothing and farming, grow a pace to so great a damp, as many thousands are like to come to sudden want: nor can wee expect any redresse thereof, unlesse the Bishops and Popish Lords be removed out of the House of Peeres.

Therefore wee humbly pray, that you would earnestly mediate with his Majestie and the House of Peeres, that our brethren in *Ireland* may be speedily relieved, the Papists throughout this Kingdome may be disarmed; and the Kingdome be put into such a warlike posture, for defence, as may be for it's safety; and that the Bishops and popish Lords who (as wee conceive) have hindered the successe of your godly endeavours, may be excluded the house of peeres; Not doubting, but that then our petitions formerly presented to this House, will receive the more full and speedy answer.

And your Petioners (resolving in all just and honourable wayes (according to our late Protestation) to assist you to your rights and Priviledges, with our estates and Lives against the enemies of God, the King and State; humbly pray, &c.

To the Honorable Knights, Citizens and Burgesses of the House of Commons assembled in Parliament.

The humble Petition of Knights, Gentlemen, Freeholders, and others, Inhabitants of the County of HERTFORD.

Sheweth,

THat this Church and Kingdome being by the prelates, those multitudes of corrupt and scandalous Ministers (their Creatures) and the popish party, concurring with them on the one hand, and by wicked Counsellors, evill Ministers of State, and great swarmes of projectors, and others ill affected to the peace of this Realme, on the other hand, brought to a sad, and almost desperate condition, and thereby the splendor of his Majesties Crowne and dignity dangerously weakned and eclypsed; It pleased his Majesty, having respect to the petitions of Nobles and people in that behalfe, to call this present parliament, the only able meanes (under God) to reforme the many pressures and grievances of the Church & Kingdom, & to remove the causes thereof.

In which Parliament, to the honour of his Majestie, and comfort of his subjects, exemplaria Iustice hath beene executed, Arbytrary Courts, Ship-money, Monopolies, and other illegall Impositions removed, the shedding of

blood prevented, by the late union betweene the two Kingdomes of *England* and *Scotland*, and further hopes given us of perfecting what remaines by the happy continuance and much desired progresse of this Parliament.

And although that malignant party of Prelates and Papists, and their adherents (whose present standings, and the happy successe of this Parliament, as the Petitioners humbly conceive, are inconsistant) have by their manifold wicked practises and designes endeavoured to hinder all thorow reformation in Church and Common-wealth, to stifle in the birth and progresse all those good Bills, and other preparations made by this Honourable assembly for thet purpose, and especially, for the reliefe of the Kingdome of *Ireland*, (the ruine whereof will endanger this Kingdome also.) To stop the influence of his Majesties Royall favour in giving life thereto, to divide betweene his Majesty and this Honourable assembly, and to render you not onely contemptible, but also burthensome to the people; yet the Petitioners, and as they verily beleive, all well affected to his Maiesty, and the peace and prosperity of this Kingdome, have, and still shall continue an high and honourable esteeme of this worthy assembly and of your great and unwearied endeavours, and doe with the utmost expressions of their thankfulnes acknowledge the same, and the progresse and perfecting thereof, to be of great consequence, and deepe necessity to the peace and welfarre of this Church and Kingdome, and such as without which not onely a refluxe of the former calamities, but even utter ruine and desolation, like that, being too long continued in sad and much lamented *Ireland*, will apparently ensue.

From the sense whereof, and of the great and unheard of breaches lately made upon the Priviledges of Parliament, even to the endangering of the being thereof, wherein your Petitioners and their posterity are much concerned. The Petitioners take upon them the humble boldnes to declare their readines and great engagements according to their Protestation, to stand to, and defend to the utmost perill of their lives and Estates, the Kings Maiesty and high court of parliament, with all the power and priviledges of the same, and all your Honourable proceedings for the common good, against all popish and other malignant opposers, who endeavour, either by evill Counsell, secret plots, or open force to hurt or preiudice the same, or to make divisions betweene his Maiesty and the parliament.

And the said Petitioners humbly pray, that the Papists may be fully disarmed, the Lawes against them executed, the Kingdome, and especially this County, according to their late Intention in that behalfe, put into a posture of warre for their better defence, the forts and strength of this Kingdome put into safe hands, which the Parliament may confide and trust in, the priviledges of Parliament repatred and throughly vindicated, and that this Honourable (assembly a hath been lately desired of you by the Citizens of London) will be a meanes unto his Maiestie and house of Peers, that life may be speedily given to your good endeavours by their concurrence with you in taking away of the votes of Popish Lords and Bishops out of the House of Peers, the speedy and strong reliefe of Ireland, the further punishment of Delinquents the removall of the pressures and grievances in Church and Common-wealth, and reforming of what is therein amisse.

Die Martis 25. *Ianuar.* 1641.

IT is this Day Ordered by the Commons House of Parliament, that Mr. Speaker, in the Name of the House, shall give thankes unto Mr. Pym, for his so well performing the service he was imployed in by the Commands of this House at this Conference. And it is further Ordered, that Mr. Pym be desired to put the Speech he made at this Conference into writing, and to deliver it into the House, to the end that it may be printed.

H. Elsynge *Cler. Parl. D. Com.*

The Petitions being read by foure severall Members of *the House, Mr.* Pym *resumed his Discourse.*

My Lords,

IN these foure Petitions you may heare the voyce or rather the crie of all *England*, and you cannot wonder if the urgencie, the extremity of the condition wherein we are, doe produce some earnestnesse and vehemency of expression more than ordinarie; the agony, terrour, and perplexity in which the Kingdome labours is universall, all parts are affected with it; and therefore in these, you may observe the groans and miserable complaints of all.

Divers reasons may be given why those diseases which are Epidemicall are more dangerous than others: The Cause of such diseases is universall and supernall, not from an evill constitution, or evill dyet, or any other accident: and such causes work with more vigor and efficacy, then those which are particular and inferiour. 2. In such diseases there is a communicative quality, whereby the malignity of them is multiplyed and enforced. 3. They have a converting, transforming power that turnes other diseases and evill affections of mens bodies into their owne nature.

The common and Epidemicall disease wherein this Commonwealth lyes now gasping hath a superior and universall cause from the evill Counsels and designes of those, who under his Majesty beare the greatest sway in Government. 2. It hath a contagious and infectious quality, whereby it is diffused and dispersed through all parts of the kingdom. 3. It is apt to take in the discontents, evill affections of particular persons to increase and fortifie it selfe.

I shall take occasion from severall Branches of those Peti-

tions which your Lordships have heard to observe.

1. The variety of Dangers to which this kingdom is [illegible].

2. The manifold distempers which is the cause of those dangers.

3. The multiplicity of those evill Influences which [illegible] Causes of that distemper.

The first danger is from enemies abroad; this may seem a causelesse and impertinent observation at this time, seeing we are in peace with all Nations about us: But (my Lords) you may bee pleased to consider that the safety of the Kingdome ought not to depend upon the will and disposition of our neighbors, but upon our own strength and Provision: Betwixt States there are often suddaine changes, from peace to war, according to occasion and advantage. All the States of Christendome are now arm'd, and we have no reason to believe but that those of greatest Power have an evill Eye upon us, in respect of our Religion: And if their private Differences should be composed, how dangerously, how speedily might those great Armies and other preparations now ready, be applyed to some Enterprise, and Attempt against us; and if there were no other cause, this were sufficient to make us stand upon our Guard; but there are divers more especiall symptoms of dangers of this kind.

We may perceive by severall Advertisements from abroad, that they did foresee our dangers many moneths before they broke out; they could fore-tell the Time and Manner of them, which is a clear evidence they held intelligence with those which were the contrivers and workers of the present troubles.

We have many dangerous Traytors and Fugitives now in other parts, who can discover the weaknes & distemper of the Kingdome; who hold Intelligence with the ill affected party here & by all cunning and subtle practises endevour to incite and provoke other Princes against us.

Some of the Ministers of our neighbor Princes may be justly suspected to have had a more immediate hand and operation in the insurrection and rebellion of Ireland, many of the Commanders and most of the souldiers levied for the service of Spain, are now joyned with the Rebells there; and those Irish Friers which were imployed by the Spanish Ambassador for the making of those Levies, are knowne to have been chiefe Incendiaries to this Rebellion, and are still very active in the prosecution and incouragement of it.

The Rebells have a ready and speedy supply from some of our neigh-

neighbours. Two Convoyes of Munition and Armes wee are certainly informed of: one from *Dunkirke*, the other from *Nantes* in *Britany*: and certainly those that are so forward to enable others to hurt us, will not forbear to hurt us themselves, as soon as they shall have meanes and opportunity to do it.

Another danger is from the Papists and ill-affected party at home. The Papists here are acted by the same Principles with those in Ireland; many of the most active of them have lately bin there, which argues an intercourse and communication of Counsels. They have still store of Armes and Munition at their disposing, notwithstanding all our endevours to barre them, they have free resort to the Citie and to the Court, they want no opportunities to consult together, they have the same or greater incouragements from above, and from about them, than ever, in respect of the example and successe of the Rebels in Ireland, and the great confusions and divisions which by their cunning and subtile practices are raised and fomented amongst our selves at home.

3. A third danger is of tumults and insurrections of the meaner sort of people, by reason of their ill vent of Cloth and other Manufactures, whereby great multitudes are set on work, who live for the most upon their dayly gettings, and will in a very short time bee brought to great extremity, if not imployed; Nothing is more sharp and pressing than necessity and want; what they cannot buy they will take, and from hence the like necessity will quickly be derived to the Farmours and Husband-men, and so grow higher, and involve all in an equality of miserie and distresse, if it be not prevented. And at this time such Tumults will be dangerous, becaus the Kingdome is full of disbanded Souldiers and Officers which will bee ready to head and to animate the Multitude to commit violence with more strength and advantage; and if they once grow into a Body, it will be much more difficult to reduce them into order again, becaus necessity and want, which are the Causes of this disturbance, will still increase as the effects doe increase.

A fourth danger is from the Rebels in *Ireland*, not onely in respect of that Kingdome, but in respect of this. They have seized upon the Body of that Kingdome already, they abound in men of very able bodies, they increase in Armes and Munition, they have great hopes of supplies from abroad, of incouragement here, and are sure of good entertainment from the popish party; so that they begin to speak already of the transporting themselves hither, and making this Kingdome the seat of the war.

The distemper which hath produced these dangers is various, and exceeding violent. Whensoever Nature is hindred in her proper operations and faculties, distempers will necessarily follow.

The obstructions which have brought us into this distemper, are very many, so that we cannot wonder at the strength and malignity of it. Some of the chiefest of these obstructions, I shall endevour to remember.

First, the obstruction of Reformation in matters of Religion: no Grievances are sharper than those that presse upon the tender Consciences of men; and there was never Church or State afflicted with more Grievances of this kinde, than wee have beene. And though they are by the wisedome of this Parliament partly eased and diminished, yet many still remaine: and as long as the Bishops and the corrupt part of the Clergie continue in their power, there will bee little hope of freedome, either from the fence of those which continue, or the feare of those which are removed. And of this obstruction, (my Lords) I must cleare the Commons, wee are in no part guiltie of it: Some good Bills have past us, and others are in preparation, which might have beene past before this, if we had not found such ill successe in the other. Whatsoever mischiefe this obstruction shall produce wee are free from it; we may have our part of the Miserie, wee can have no part in the *guilt* or dishonour.

2. An obstruction in Trade, it is the Trade that brings food and nourishment to the Kingdome. It is that which preserves and increaseth the stock of the whole, and distributes a convenient portion of maintenance to every part of it: therefore such an obstruction as this must needs be dangerous; the Freedome of trades being so necessarie, the benefit so important, as that it gives life, strength, and beauty to the whole Body of the Common-wealth: But I must protest the House of Commons hath given no cause of this obstruction; We have eas'd Trade of many burthens, and heavie Taxes which are taken off; we have freed it from many hard restraints by Patents and Monopolies: wee have beene willing to part with our owne Priviledges, to give it Incouragement: wee have sought to put the Merchants into security and confidence in respect of the Tower of London, that so they might be invited to bring in their Bullion to the Mint, as heretofore they have done: and wee are no way guilty of the troubles, the feares, and publique dangers which make men withdraw their Stocks, and to keep their mony by them,

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to bee ready for such sudden Exigents, as in these great distractions we have too much cause to expect.

3. The obstruction in the Reliefe of *Ireland*. It must needes be accompted a great Shame and dishonour to this Kingdome, that our Neighbours have shewed themselves more forward to supply the Rebells, then wee have beene to releeve our distressed brethren and fellow-Subjects. But I must declare that wee are altogether innocent of any neglect herein. As soone as the first newes of the Rebellion came over, wee undertooke the Warre, not by way of Supply and Ayde, as in former Rebellions the Subjects have used to doe, but wee undertooke the whole charge of it, and wee suffered not twenty foure houres to passe, before wee agreed to a great Leavie of Money and Men, to bee imployed against the Rebells, even in a larger proportion, then the Lords Justices and Councell there did desire: and from time to time we have done all for the furtherance thereof, though in the midst of many distractions and diversions, but the want of Commissions for leavying Men, for issuing Armes, and divers other Impediments, have beene the Causes of that obstruction; and I wish wee had not onely found Impediments to our selves, but also Incouragements to them. Many of the chiefe Commanders, now in the Head the of Rebells, after wee had with your Lordships Concurrence stopt the Ports against all *Irish* Papists, have beene suffered to passe by his Majesties immediate Warrant, much to the discouragement of the Lords Justices and Councell there; and, this procured, as wee beleeve, by some evill Instruments, too neere his Regall Person, without his Majesties knowledge and intention.

4. The obstruction in prosecution of Delinquents: many we have already brought up to your Lordships: divers others wee have bin discouraged to transmit; such difficult proceedings have wee met withall; such terrors and discountenance have beene cast upon our selves and our witnesses; and those who have shewed themselves their friends Patrons, have found it the most ready way to preferment; yea, his Majesties owne hand hath beene obtayned, his Majesties Ships imployed for the transporting of divers of those who have fled from the Justice of the Parliament.

5. A generall obstruction and interruption of the proceedings of Parliament, by those manifold designes of violence (which through Gods mercy wee have escaped;) by the great and frequent breaches

ches of Parliament; by the subtile endeavours to raise parties in our House, and jealousies betwixt the two Houses.

6. The obstruction in providing for the Defence of the Kingdome, that wee might bee inabled to resist a forraigne Enemy, to suppresse all Civill Insurrections: and what a pressing necessity there is of this, the exceeding great decayes in the Navy, in the Forts, in the Power of ordering the *Militia* of the Kingdome, and meanes to furnish them with Munition, are sufficient evidences, knowne to none better then to your Lordships, and what endeavour wee have used to remove them (but hitherto without that successe and Concurrence which wee expected:) and where the stop hath beene, and upon what good grounds, wee may claime our owne innocency and faithfulnesse in this, wee desire no other VVitnesses but your selves.

Lastly, I come to the evill Influences which have caused this distemper, and I shall content my selfe to mention some few of those which are most apparant and Important.

1. In the first place, I shall remember the evill Counsells about the King, whereof wee have often complained. Diseases of the Braine are most dangerous, because from thence Sence and Motion are derived to the whole Body. The malignity of evill Counsells VVill quickly be infused into all parts of the State. None can doubt but we have exceedingly laboured under most dangerous and mischievous Counsells. This evill influence hath been the cause of the preparation of VVarre with *Scotland*, of the procuring a Rebellion in *Ireland*, of corrupting Religion, suppressing the Liberty of this Kingdome, and of many fearefull and horrid Attempts, to the subverting the very being of Parliament, which was the onely hopefull Meanes of opposing and preventing all the rest. And this doth appeare to bee a most predominant evill of the Time: whereat wee needs not wonder, when wee consider how Counsellours have beene preferred and prepared. And I appeale to your Lordships owne Consciences, whether the giving, and the countenancing of evill Counsell, hath not beene almost the onely way to favour and advancement.

2. The discouragement of good Counsell: divers honest and approved Counsellours have beene put from their places: others so discountenanced, as that the way of favour hath beene shut against them,

them, and that of danger and destruction onely open to them.

3. The great Power that an interested and factious party hath in the Parliament, by the continuance of the Votes of the Bishops and Popish Lords in your Lordships House; and the taking in of others both out of the House of Commons, and otherwise, to increase their strength.

4. The fomenting and cherishing of a malignant party throughout the whole Kingdome.

5. The manifold jealousies betwixt the King, his Parliament, and good Subjects, whereby his Protection and favour hath in a great measure beene with-held from them: their inclination and resolution to serve and assist him, hath beene very much hindred and interrupted: Wee have often suffered under the mis-interpretation of good Actions, and false importation of evill, which wee never intended. So that wee may justly purge our selves from all guilt of being Authours of this jealousie and mis-understanding: Wee have beene, and are still ready to serve his Majesty with our lives and fortunes, with much cheerefulnesse and earnestnesse of affection, as ever any Subjects were; and wee doubt not but our Proceedings will so manifest this, that wee shall be as cleare in the apprehension of the world, as we are in the testimony of our owne Consciences.

I am now come to a Conclusion, and I have nothing to propound to your Lordships by way of Request or desire from the House of Commons; I doubt not but your judgements will tell you, what is to bee done; your Consciences, your Honours, your Interests will call upon you for the doing of it; The Commons will bee glad to have your helpe and concurrence in saving of the Kingdome; but if they should faile of it, it should not discourage them in doing their duty. And whether the Kingdome bee lost or saved (as through Gods blessing I hope it will bee) they shall bee sorry that the story of this present Parliament should tell Posterity, that in so great a Danger and Extremity, the House of Commons should bee inforced to save the Kingdome alone, and that the House of Peeres should have no part in the honour of the preservation of it, your having so great an Interest in the good successe of those endeavours, in respect of your great Estates, and high degrees of Nobility.

FINIS.

Two Orders of the Houſe of Commons.

Die Martis 25. Ianuarii 1641.

The Houſe being informed that ſome Gentlemen of Herefordſhire were at the doore to preſent a Petition to this Houſe, they were called in, and one in the name of the whole County preſent their Petition, which done they withdrew, and the Petition being read, they were againe called in, and Mr. Speaker by command of the Houſe told them, that the Houſe findes their Petition full of great expreſſions of their affections, to ſerve the King and the Common-wealth, full of care and zeale for a through reformation in the Church and Common-wealth; for which this Houſe gives them thanks, and as they have hitherto imployed their indeavours, ſo they will continue their care for the reforming of Grievances in the Church and Common-wealth; and for the other particulars expreſſed in your Petition, they will take it into conſideration in due time.

H. Elſing Cler. Parl. do: Com.

Die Martis 25. Ianuarii 1641.

Martin Eldred of Ieſus Colledge in Cambridge being brought to the Bar ſaith that hee did not compoſe the Petition, in the name of Hertfordſhire Petition, but one Thomas Harbert *once of Trinitie Colledge did compoſe it, and that he was in the company of the ſaid* Tho. Harbert *when he compoſed it, and that it was compoſed at the ſigne of the Antilope, and afterwards ſold to* Iohn Greeneſmith *for halfe a Crowne.*

Iohn Greeneſmith *the Stationer was called in, and did confeſſe, that* Eldred *and* Harbert *brought the Petition unto him, and that one* Bernard Alſop *of Grub-ſtreet Printed it. He likewiſe confeſſes that he had printed ſundry Pamphlets of theſe men compoſing, viz. Good Newes from Ireland, And bloudy Newes, And the Cambridge Petition; that he gave halfe a Crown a peece for them.*

Reſolved upon the Queſtion,

That Martin Eldred *ſhall be forthwith committed Priſoner to the Gate-Houſe, there to remaine during the pleaſure of the Houſe.*

Reſolved, &c.

That Thomas Harbert *ſhall be forthwith ſent for, as a Delinquent, by the Sergeant at Armes attending on this Houſe.*

Reſolved, &c.

That Iohn Greeneſmith *ſhall bee forthwith committed Priſoner to the Gate-houſe, there to remaine during the pleaſure of the Houſe.*

Reſolved, &c.

That Barnard Alſop, *Printer, ſhall be forthwith ſent for, as a Delinquent, by the Sergeant at Armes attending on this Houſe.*

H. Elſing Cler. Parl. do: Com.